



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

*Route Wayne H
Site -> Devils Slide
m/29/001*

January 31, 2000

Robert F. G. Spier
708 Morningside Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201-5987

Dear Mr. Spier:

I am responding to your December 3, 1999, letter to Governor Leavitt wherein you record your displeasure over the mining being conducted at Devil's Slide, adjacent to Interstate 84.

All mining operations in Utah are subject to stringent operating and reclamation requirements under state law. In the case of Devil's Slide Mine, the operator, Holnam, has posted a reclamation bond of \$177,600 ensuring compliance with the terms of the mining plan and ultimate reclamation of that specific site at the conclusion of mining. Permitting of a large Utah mine such as Devil's Slide is preceded by a public comment period allowing concerned citizens an opportunity to voice opinion on the appropriateness of the proposed mining operation. Land use issues are considered in the public comments and in the reclamation plan.

Your letter suggests "we are fortunate that Bryce Canyon is in federal hands" otherwise it might be subjected to use as a mine or land fill. At this point it is important to note that it is not the ownership (private, state, or federal) that dictate a land use, it is the designation of appropriate land use through a public process.

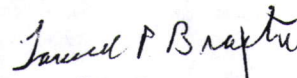
I recognize that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that in the case of Devil's Slide your stated personal preference would place the mining activity elsewhere. However, the high grade limestone deposits (in the case of Devil's Slide) requisite for cement production are not randomly placed geologically, and mining elsewhere is not an obvious option in this case. The freeway system that you utilize in your travels is heavily dependent on natural resources for construction and maintenance, and the juxtaposition of acceptable construction materials to a proposed highway corridor is a part of the decision in locating the highway, and in determining the ultimate cost and engineering characteristics of the project.

Page 2
Robert F. G. Spier
January 31, 2000

If you are interested in learning more about mining regulation in Utah or the dependence of an industrialized society on raw materials to sustain economic diversity and individual choice, I would be happy to make additional material available to you.

Thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Director

vb

cc: Office of the Governor
B. Barela
M. Wright

P:\GROUPS\ADMIN\BRAXTON\GOVERNOR\devilslide.wpd